

PMC-EF2a

(204.02)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER  
NEPA DETERMINATION



RECIPIENT: AWS Truepower, LLC

STATE: NY

**PROJECT TITLE :** Enhancing Short Term Wind Forecasting For Improved Utility operations

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0000343	DE-EE0004420	GFO-0004420-001	0

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

**CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:**

Description:

**A9** Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, audits), data analysis (including computer modeling), document preparation (such as conceptual design or feasibility studies, analytical energy supply and demand studies), and dissemination (including, but not limited to, document mailings, publication, and distribution; and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.

## Rational for determination:

AWS Truepower, LLC is proposing to use DOE funding to support a short-term wind energy forecasting feasibility study. The intended use of DOE funds covers the full range of this project (see tasks listed below). Part of the DOE funding will be used to purchase, operate, and maintain a 12-month deployment of four SODARS (SONic Detection And Ranging)—instruments that measure the scattering of sound waves by atmospheric turbulence. SODAR systems are used to measure wind speed and direction at various heights above the ground (up to 200 - 500 m). Installation of these stations will principally support the wind energy computer model forecast efforts which will occur primarily at existing facilities in Albany and Troy, NY. DOE funds will also be used to provide partial support for AWS Truepower personnel working on the project at various stages and to supporting subcontractors. The proposed project consists of 5 main tasks and multiple subtasks outlined below.

## Task 1.0 Field Campaign

Subtask 1.1 Identification and Incorporation of Existing Observation Networks

Subtask 1.3 Deployment of Remote Sensing Equipment

## Task 2.0 Modeling/Forecasting Campaign

Subtask 2.1 Target Observation Analysis

Subtask 2.2 Model Modifications and Simulations

Subtask 2.3 Forecast Performance Evaluation and Sensitivity Analysis

## Task 3.0 Economic Evaluation

## Task 4.0 Final Report

## Task 5.0 Project Management and Reporting

Task 1.0 subtask 1.1, Task 2 subtasks 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3, and Tasks 3.0, 4.0 and 5.0 are consistent with activities outlined in A9 "information gathering"; therefore, they are categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Task 1.0 subtask 1.3 (as described in the attached SOPO) consists of the deployment of 4 SODARs, 1 wind profiling radar, and one 200m tower at the Texas Tech University Reese Center. The recipient has not selected specific sites for this equipment; therefore, the deployment of this equipment using DOE funding is not allowed until a NEPA review has been conducted regarding the placement of the monitoring equipment at identified sites.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Task 1.0 subtask 1.3 (as described in the attached SOPO) consists of the deployment of 4 SODARs, 1 wind profiling radar, and one 200m tower at the Texas Tech University Reese Center. The recipient has not selected specific sites for this equipment; therefore, the deployment of this equipment using DOE funding is not allowed until a NEPA review has been conducted regarding the placement of the monitoring equipment at identified sites.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

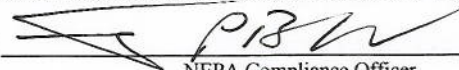
Task 1.0 subtask 1.1, Task 2 subtasks 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3, and Tasks 3.0, 4.0 and 5.0

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

EF2a completed by Logan Sholar

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:   
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/24/10

**FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION**

Field Office Manager review required

**NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:**

- Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

**BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :**

Field Office Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_